

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 31 and 37 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claims 1-2. (Previously canceled)

Claim 3. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 36, wherein each second region comprises an arcuate cutout.

Claim 4. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 38, wherein each of said barb roots is connected to a pair of barbs, said pair of barbs pointing in opposite directions along a longitudinal axis of said tape.

Claim 5. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 36, wherein:

the continuous piece of elongated metal tape has a plurality of first regions, a plurality of second regions, and a plurality of third regions; and

a distance between the barb points of said pair of barbs is the same as a distance between adjacent ones of said second regions of said tape.

Claims 6-8. (Previously canceled)

Claim 9. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 37, wherein a width of each of the flanges in each first region is greater than a width of each of the flanges in each second region, and wherein a width of each of the flanges in each third region is greater than a width of each of the flanges in each second region.

Claim 10-11. (Previously canceled)

Claim 12. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 37, wherein a width of each of the flanges in each second region is equal to a width of each of the flanges in each third region.

Claims 13-15 (Previously canceled)

Claim 16. (Previously amended) The structure of claim 37, wherein:

the continuous piece of elongated metal tape has a plurality of first regions, a plurality of second regions, and a plurality of third regions; and

a distance between the barb points of said pair of barbs is approximately the same as the distance between adjacent ones of said second regions of said tape.

Claims 17-30. (Previously canceled)

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A barrier structure comprising a metal tape, the metal tape comprising:

an elongate body defining a longitudinally extending channel;

a pair of elongate flanges extending transversely from each side of the channel;

barbs spaced along the metal tape and connected to the tape by respective barb roots;

wherein the flanges have respective edges with first edge portions adjacent to the barbs, second edge portions adjacent to the first portions, and third edge portions adjacent to the second edge portions; and

wherein the second edge portions are recessed inwardly toward the channel relative to the first and third edge portions and the second edge portions are not continuous with the first edge portions or [and the second edge portions are not continuous with] the third edge portions.

Claim 32. (Previously added) The barrier structure of claim 31, wherein the first edge portions are longitudinally aligned with adjacent third edge portions.

Claim 33. (Previously added) The barrier structure of claim 31, wherein the first edge portions are not longitudinally aligned with adjacent third edge portions.

Claim 34. (Previously added) The barrier structure of claim 31, wherein the channel does not receive a reinforcing wire.

Claim 35. (Previously added) The barrier structure of claim 31, wherein the channel forms an arc extending between the flanges, the arc having an angle of approximately 180 degrees.

Claim 36. (Previously added) A barrier structure comprising a continuous piece of elongated metal tape, said metal tape comprising:

- an elongate body defining a longitudinally extending channel and an elongate flange extending transversely from each side of said channel;

- barb roots spaced along said tape and secured to said flanges;

- a pair of tapered barbs secured to a barb root, said pair of tapered barbs extending in opposing longitudinal directions, and each of said tapered barbs forming a barb point;

- a first region of said elongate body adjacent to the barb root;

- a second region of said elongate body adjacent to the first region distal from the adjacent barb root;

- a third region of said elongate body adjacent to the second region distal from said first region, the third region extending lengthwise from the second region and meeting a corresponding third region extending lengthwise away from another second region;

wherein:

- a width of the flanges in the first region is greater than a width of the flanges in the second region, and wherein a width of the flanges in the third region is greater than the width of the flanges in the second region; and

- said channel does not receive a reinforcing wire.

Claim 37. (Currently amended) A barrier structure comprising a continuous piece of elongated metal tape, said metal tape comprising:

- an elongate body defining a longitudinally extending channel and an elongate flange extending transversely from each side of said channel;

- barb roots spaced along said tape and secured to said flanges;

- a pair of tapered barbs secured to a barb root, said pair of tapered barbs extending in opposing longitudinal directions, and each of said tapered barbs forming a barb point;

- a first region of said elongate body adjacent to the barb root;

- a second region of said elongate body adjacent to the first region distal from the adjacent barb root;

- a third region of said elongate body adjacent to the second region distal from said first region, the third region extending lengthwise from the second region and meeting a corresponding third region extending lengthwise away from another second region;

wherein:

- the second region extends inwardly from the first region to the third region;

- the width of the flanges in the first region is greater than the width of the flanges in each third region; and

- said channel describes an arc extending between the flanges, the arc extending less or equal to approximately 180°.

Claim 38. (Previously added) A barrier structure comprising a continuous piece of elongated metal tape, said metal tape comprising:

- an elongate body defining a longitudinally extending channel and an elongate flange extending transversely from each side of said channel;

- barb roots spaced along said tape and secured to said flanges;

- a pair of tapered barbs secured to a barb root;

- a first region of said elongate body adjacent to the barb root;

- a second region of said elongate body adjacent to the first region distal from the adjacent barb root;

- a third region of said elongate body adjacent to the second region distal from said first region, the third region extending lengthwise from the second region and meeting a corresponding third region extending lengthwise away from another second region;

wherein:

- the second region comprises an arcuate cutout; and

- said channel does not receive a reinforcing wire and wherein said channel describes an arc extending between the flanges, the arc extending about 180°.

Claim 39. (Previously added) The structure of claim 38, wherein the flanges extend along the first region, the second region and the third region.

Claim 40. (Previously added) The structure of claim 38, wherein each pair of barbs is part of a cluster of four barbs, each cluster of four barbs comprising a pair of barbs extending from each of said flanges.